

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

Replace the claims with the following rewritten listing:

1. (Currently Amended) Contacting unit for a card-shaped carrier element for electronic components, especially for ISO 7816 chip cards (9), with including a plug-in card-type housing (2) that comprising:es
a base plate (3) and a cover plate (6) that is congruent in a transverse direction; between which is a slot-type plug-in port, (8) between the base plate and the cover plate, that opens onto an end face of the housing (2) and is designed to accommodate the chip card electronic component; (9) is incorporated, and which is equipped on the end face opposite this end face with a plug connector strip on an end face of the housing; (4), especially a standard PCMCIA connector, and is provided with a printed circuit board arranged parallel to the plug-in port (8) in the housing, (2), which is electrically connected to the plug connector strip, wherein the circuit board (4) and is equipped includes on its upper surface, with a contact field for contacting the chip card electronic component; and (9), characterized in that only whereby the base plate (3) is extended by comprises a flat, lower-lip-type projection, which extending in an area that lies in front of the an opening to the plug-in port slot (8) in the direction of insertion of the electronic component chip card (9).
2. (Currently Amended) Contacting unit pursuant to of claim 1, characterized in that wherein the width of the projection (42) crosswise to the housing (2) is equal to or narrower than the width of the base plate (3).

3. (Currently Amended) Contacting unit pursuant to ~~of~~ claim 1, or claim 2, characterized in that wherein the projection (12) is provided with comprises at least one release aid (12a).
4. (Currently Amended) Contacting unit pursuant to one of claims 1, through 3, characterized in that wherein the projection (12) is made of plastic and/or metal.
5. (Currently Amended) Contacting unit pursuant to one of claims 1, through 4, characterized in that wherein the projection (12) is U-shaped, i.e. is designed with lateral guide supports (14, 15).
6. (Currently Amended) Contacting unit pursuant to ~~of~~ claim 5, characterized by further comprising an upper covering of the U-shaped projection.
7. (Currently Amended) Contacting unit pursuant to one of claims 1, through 6, characterized in that wherein the base plate (3) is connected to the cover plate (6) in the an area of the plug connector strip (4).
8. (Currently Amended) Contacting unit pursuant to one of claims 1, through 7, characterized in that wherein the plug-in port slot (8) is open on both sides, all the way through, across its entire length in the direction of insertion of the electronic component chip card (9), and in that wherein the base plate (3) is connected to the cover plate (6) only in the an area of the plug connector strip (4) in such a way that prestress is created between the base plate (3) and the cover plate (6).
9. (Currently Amended) Contacting unit pursuant to one of claims 1, through 8, characterized in that wherein the projection (12) is connected to the base plate (3) along a predetermined breaking line (13).

10. (Currently Amended) Contacting unit ~~pursuant to one of claims 1, through 9, characterized in that~~wherein the projection (12) is connected to the base plate (3) at one or more predetermined breaking points.
11. (Currently Amended) Contacting unit ~~pursuant to one of claims 1, through 10, characterized in that the~~wherein an expansion area formed by the projection (12) is comprised of partial segments that can be individually separated from the base plate.
12. (Currently Amended) Contacting unit ~~pursuant to one of claims 14, through 11, characterized in that~~wherein the projection (12) and/or the lateral guide supports (14, 15) are provided with openings (18) and/or latching elements.
13. (Currently Amended) Contacting unit ~~pursuant to~~of claim 12, characterized by comprising a supplementary incorporation of one or more electrical modules (19), wherein an electrical connection (24/25) to the printed circuit board is provided.
14. (New) Contacting unit of claim 5, wherein the U-shaped projection comprises lateral guide supports.
15. (New) Contacting unit of claim 1, wherein the electronic component is an ISO 7816 chip card.
16. (New) Contacting unit of claim 1, wherein the slot-type plug-in port is located on the opposite end of the housing from the plug connector strip.
17. (New) Contacting unit of claim 1, wherein the plug connector strip is a standard PCMCIA connector.